

## REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and favorable reconsideration of the subject application in the light thereof, and in the light of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claims 16-37 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. These claims have been withdrawn from further consideration due to an election requirement. That requirement has been deemed final by the Examiner. Accordingly, the claims have now been canceled without prejudice to Applicant's rights with regard to filing a divisional application.

Also, claim 1 has been amended to recite a catalyst "composition", (as opposed to a "formulation") to be consistent with the remaining claims.

With regard to the Official Action, Applicant initially wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2-15 contain allowable subject matter.

Turning to the art rejection of record, claim 1 is the sole rejected claim, and is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobs et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,510,056). For the following reasons, however, the Examiner's rejection is most respectfully traversed by Applicant.

Jacobs et al. is noted on page 2 of the present specification, line 8. It was noted as disclosing the use of ceramic foams as a catalyst, generally as a base impregnated with an active material, this is what Jacobs et al. discloses. This does not suggest the presently claimed invention.

In column 6, lines 16-32 of Jacobs et al., the presence of a "pore" space between two adjacent particles is discussed. Specifically, when referring to ceramic

foams as catalysts, the term "pore" in Jacobs et al. refers to the openings or spaces between adjacent portions of the ceramic structure. As stated at column 6, lines 28-32, in Jacobs et al. "these are to be contrasted with pores which may be present in the catalyst support material itself, as is the case, for example, when a ceramic foam or particles prepared from a porous refractory oxide are employed." Thus, the description of the catalyst bed in Jacobs et al. is one of catalyst particles, with a ceramic foam as a catalyst particle impregnated with active material, having void spaces between the catalyst particles. This is totally different from that of the presently claimed invention.

In the presently claimed invention, as noted in claim 1, the catalyst composition comprises solid catalyst particles, with separate ceramic foam material interspersed between the solid catalyst particles. Thus, the catalyst composition being claimed in the present application is one of catalyst particles having ceramic foam material interspersed between the catalyst particles. As disclosed on page 6, lines 8-10 of the present specification, "an important aspect of the present invention is a uniform blending of a ceramic foam material in with solid catalyst particles to uniformly intersperse the ceramic foam material between the solid catalyst particles." Thus, the present invention requires catalyst particles with additional ceramic foam materials interspersed between the various solid particles.

As further explained in the present specification, by uniformly interspersing the ceramic foam material between the solid catalyst particles, one effectively inserts void area within the catalyst formulation which will persist after any loss that results from the collapse of the catalyst. This would not be the case in the Jacobs et al. catalyst formulation. For when the catalyst collapses in the Jacobs et al. formulation,

there would be a total collapse of the bed as the void space between the adjacent catalyst particles is exactly that-empty space. In the present invention, that space is taken up or created by the ceramic foam material. Such a catalyst composition is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Jacobs et al.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Jacobs et al. does not anticipate the presently claimed invention of claim 1. Furthermore, it is submitted that Jacobs et al. cannot render obvious Applicant's claimed invention as no motivation is provided in Jacobs et al. for inserting or uniformly interspersing the ceramic foam materials between the solid catalyst particles. The problem solved by Applicant's claimed invention is nowhere disclosed or recognized in Jacobs et al., nor is the solution provided by Applicant's claimed invention.

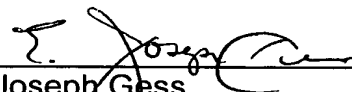
Therefore, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 over Jacobs et al. are respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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